

Sheikhgal

Sheikhgal or **Watali** is an unclassified Indo-Aryan language^[1] of Jammu and Kashmir, India. Its speakers, the formerly nomadic *Watalis*,^[2] are found throughout *Kashmir*, particularly in the districts of *Srinagar* (*Parimpora*, *Nowhatta*, *Dargah*, *Natipora*, *Hawal*), *Baramulla* (*Bandipora*, *Khawja Bagh*, *Sopore* and *Tangmarg*), *Pulwama* (*Lolaab* and *Lassipora*) and *Kupwara* (*Kanthpora*, *Kulgam*, *Haihama*, *Magam*, *Handwara*, *Tarathpora*).^[3] Among its speakers the language is also known as **Opedigal** or **Phiri kathi**.^[4]

Although attitudes towards the language are generally negative,^[5] the community is compact^[6] and Sheikhgal is the dominant language within the home.^[7] However, in other domains (market, workplace etc.) the language of wider communication *Kashmiri* is the preferred choice, even with other speakers of Sheikhgal.^[8] Within the family, there is a slight shift away from using Sheikhgal (85% of those interviewed by Mullick speak Sheikhgal with their spouses but only 69% do so with their children).^[9]

Sheikhgal	
Watali	
Opedigal	
Native to	India
Region	Kashmir Valley
Ethnicity	Watal
Language family	Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indo-Iranian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indo-Aryan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (unclassified) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheikhgal
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None</i> (mis)
Glottolog	<i>None</i>

References

- Safdar* 2014, p. 280.
- Safdar* 2014, p. 279.
- Mullick* 2003, pp. 11–12; *Safdar* 2014, p. 279
- Mullick* 2003, p. 11.
- Mullick* 2003, p. 66.
- Safdar* 2014, p. 280; *Mullick* 2003, p. 91
- Mullick* 2003, pp. 81–2.
- Mullick* 2003, pp. 84–85.
- Mullick* 2003, p. 81. see also comment on p. 93.

Bibliography

- Mullick, Aban Parvaz (2003). *A sociolinguistic study of Sheikhgal* (<http://dspace.uok.edu.in:8080/jspui/handle/1/1277>) (MPhil). University of Kashmir.
- Safdar, Rahila (2014). "Sheikha Gal". In Devy, G. N.; Koul, Omkar N. (eds.). *The languages of Jammu & Kashmir*. People's linguistic survey of India. **12**. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan. pp. 279–83. ISBN 978-81-250-5516-7.

Further reading

- Kak, A.A.; Panzoo, O.F. (2010). "A brief note on morphological and morphophonemic features of Sheikhgal (Watali)". *Interdisciplinary Journal of Linguistics*. Srinagar: Dept. of Linguistics, University of Kashmir. **3**: 201–212. ISSN 0974-3421 (<https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0974-3421>).

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